

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 /078 W
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R 071846Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7732
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BELIZE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
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AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, ETRD, XM
SUBJECT: EC/LATIN AMERICAN SEMI-ANNUAL DIALOGUE AT
AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL

REF: (A) 77 BRUSSELS 19585; (B) 77 BRUSSELS 06469

1. SUMMARY: SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF EC/LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORIAL DIALOGUE JUNE 29, NOTABLE FOR ITS RELATIVELY CONSTRUCTIVE TONE, FOCUSED ON RECENT TRADE TRENDS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS WELCOMED STATEMENT FROM LATIN SIDE THAT LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM WILL CONVENE A NOVEMBER MEETING TO REVIEW RELATIONS WITH EEC. END SUMMARY.

2. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF EC/LATIN AMERICAN AMBASSADORS WAS HELD IN BRUSSELS JUNE 29. THE SESSION WAS CO-CHAIRLED BY AMBASSADOR RIBERHOLDT OF DENMARK, THEN PRESIDENT OF THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR MEDEIROS-QUEREJAZU, PRESIDENT-IN-OFFICE OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED THE SESSION TELL US THAT IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THIS TYPE (REFTELS) THE TONE OF THE JUNE 29 SESSION WAS REFRESHINGLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESS-LIKE.

3. WHILE THE SESSION LASTED ONLY SEVENTY-FIVE MINUTES (OF WHICH ABOUT HALF WAS DEVOTED TO THE LATIN AMERICAN CO-CHAIRMAN'S OPENING SPEECH), THERE WAS NONETHELESS FRUITFUL DISCUSSION ON SEVERAL MAJOR ISSUES, ACCORDING TO EC COMMISSION SOURCES. THE AMBASSADORS REVIEWED AND APPROVED A DRAFT PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES PREPARED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE JOINT EEC/LATIN AMERICA WORKING PARTY ON TRADE QUESTIONS (REF A). THIS ANALYSIS, A COPY OF WHICH IS BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, (ARA/ECP), EXAMINES RECENT EC AND LATIN AMERICAN EXPORT AND IMPORT STATISTICS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEFINING TRENDS; IN THE VIEW OF THE TWO SIDES, THIS MAY LEAD TO BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND FUTURE JOINT ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE TRADE RELATIONS. A FOLLOW-UP STUDY HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY DECEMBER 1978, ANALYZING TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY, PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT BASIS. ACCORDING TO THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT GREATER "DIVERSIFICATION OF SOUTH AMERICAN EXPORTS, PARTICULARLY OF INDUSTRIAL GOODS, WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE."

4. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING THE PROSPECTS FOR WORLD ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND CALLING FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME TO THE MTN AND THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE AMBASSADORS HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON EC AID TO LATIN AMERICA IN SUPPORT BOTH OF TRADE PROMOTION AND "REGIONAL INTEGRATION." ACCORDING TO OUR EC COMMISSION SOURCE, BEYOND THE TRADITIONAL EC ALLOCATION OF AID TO

NON-ASSOCIATED STATES THE LATIN SIDE HINTED THAT IT
WOULD LIKE FUTURE EC DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ARRANGEMENTS
TO BENEFIT THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET AND THE
ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES. THE BOLIVIAN CO-CHAIRMAN ALSO
INFORMED THE SESSION THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF LAES
(LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM) HAS DECIDED TO CONVENE
A MEETING NEXT NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS RELATIONS WITH THE EEC.
(COMMENT: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
DIALOGUE HAVE EMPHASIZED TO MISSION OFFICER ON NUMEROUS
OCCASIONS THE IMPORTANCE THE COMMISSION ATTACHES TO
IMPROVING AND ENHANCING RELATIONS WITH LAES OVER THE
LONGER-TERM. THIS IS REPORTEDLY A CONSEQUENCE, IN PART,
OF THE EC'S LONG-STANDING FRUSTRATION WITH THE DIALOGUE

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AS A MECHANISM FOR STEPPING UP COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICA IN AN ORDERLY FASHION. END COMMENT).

5. FINALLY, ACCORDING TO THE JOINT PRESS STATEMENT, THE LATIN AMERICAN SIDE "NOTED WITH SATISFACTION" THE OPENING OF A COMMISSION OFFICE IN CARACAS, (BRUSSELS 7006), AND WELCOMED RECENT STEPS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY REGARDING, INTER ALIA, "GSP, TRADE PROMOTION, AND FOOD AID". THE LATIN SIDE ALSO REITERATED ITS REQUEST THAT THE COMMUNITY ACCEDE TO THE SUGAR AGREEMENT.

6. COMMENT: OUR EC COMMISSION SOURCES CAME AWAY FROM THE JUNE 29 SESSION SURPRISED AT THE REFRESHING TONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, ESPECIALLY, THE RELATIVE ABSENCE OF ACIMONY THAT HAS CHARACTERIZED THE DIALOGUE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. SOME SAY THIS IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF THE LATIN SIDE TAKING THE HIGH ROAD OUT OF DEFERENCE TO THE DEPARTING URUGUYAN AMBASSADOR GRUNWALDT-RAMASSO. ASSUMING IT REPRESENTS A LASTING TREND ON THE LATIN AMERICAN SIDE, HOWEVER, IT WOULD FULFILL A NECESSARY PRE-CONDITION TO LATIN AMERICA'S IMPROVING ITS ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY OVER THE LONGER-TERM. END COMMENT. HINTON

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